

In the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claims 1-23. (Canceled)

Claim 24. (Currently amended) A salad container comprising:

a removable lid; and

a container body comprising:

an open top,

a closed bottom,

an exterior surface,

an interior surface defining a cavity, and

at least one protrusion projecting inwardly into the cavity;

wherein the cavity is divided into an upper chamber and a lower chamber by a selective barrier extending across the cavity and the selective barrier is at least partially supported by the at least one protrusion, the selective barrier being sufficiently configured to selectively exclude entry of relatively large food items into the lower chamber and to provide passage through the barrier of relatively small food ingredients both into and out of the lower chamber so that the relatively large food items are stored away from the small food ingredients until just before consumption,

wherein the selective barrier is releasably secured to the body.

Claim 25. (Previously presented) The salad container of claim 24, wherein the relatively large food items is salad and the relatively small food ingredients is salad dressing.

Claim 26. (Previously presented) The salad container of claim 25, wherein the selective barrier has an upwardly angled extension cooperatively configured to wedge the selective barrier in frictional contact with the at least one protrusion.

Claim 27. (Previously presented) The salad container of claim 26 wherein the at least

one protrusion is formed as a seat.

Claim 28. (Previously presented) The salad container of claim 26, wherein the seat has a front surface and the barrier is cooperatively configured to wedge the barrier to the front surface.

Claim 29. (Previously presented) The salad container of claim 26, wherein the upwardly angled extension is further extended by a lateral flange.

Claim 30. (Previously presented) The salad container of claim 26, wherein the lid has a liquid tight seal.

Claims 31. (Previously presented) The salad container of claim 24, wherein the selective barrier has an upwardly angled extension cooperatively configured to wedge the barrier in fictional contact with the at least one protrusion.

Claim 32. (Previously presented) The salad container of claim 31, wherein the at least one protrusion is formed as a seat.

Claim 33. (Previously presented) The salad container of claim 31, wherein the seat has a front surface and the barrier is cooperatively configured to wedge the barrier to the front surface.

Claim 34. (Previously presented) The salad container of claim 31, wherein the upwardly angled extension is further extended by a lateral flange.

Claim 35. (Previously presented) The salad container of claim 31, wherein the lid has a liquid tight seal.

Claim 36. (Previously presented) The salad container of claim 24, wherein just before consumption the relatively small food ingredients at least partially coat the relatively large food items.

Claim 37. (Previously presented) The salad container of claim 24, wherein the relatively small food ingredients have a viscosity greater than water.

Claim 38. (Currently amended) A salad container comprising:

- a removable lid; and
- a container body comprising:
 - an open top,
 - a closed bottom,
 - an exterior surface,
 - an interior surface defining a cavity, and
 - at least one protrusion projecting inwardly into the cavity;

wherein the cavity is divided into an upper chamber and a lower chamber by a selective barrier means extending across the cavity and the selective barrier means is at least partially supported by the at least one protrusion, the selective barrier means being sufficiently configured to selectively exclude entry of relatively large food items into the lower chamber and to provide passage through the barrier of relatively small food ingredients both into and out of the lower chamber so that the relatively large food items are stored away from the small food ingredients until just before consumption,

wherein the selective barrier means has an upwardly angled extension cooperatively configured to wedge the selective barrier means in frictional contact with the at least one protrusion, and wherein the selective barrier means is releasably secured to the body.

Claim 39. (Previously presented) The salad container of claim 38, wherein the at least one protrusion is formed as seat.

Claim 40. (Previously presented) The salad container of claim 38, wherein the seat has a front surface and the barrier is cooperatively configured to wedge the barrier to the front surface.

Claim 41. (Previously presented) The salad container of claim 38, wherein the upwardly angled extension is further extended by a lateral flange.

Claim 42. (Previously presented) The salad container of claim 38, wherein the lid has a liquid tight seal.

Claim 43. (Previously presented) The salad container of claim 42, wherein the lid is constructed such that it can serve as the bottom of the container body when the salad container is flipped over into an inverted position and shaken.

Claim 44. (Previously presented) The salad container of claim 43, wherein the lid is further constructed to stably support the inverted container on a surface.

Claim 45. (Previously presented) The salad container of claim 42, wherein the lid is constructed such that it can serve as the bottom of the container body when the salad container is flipped over into an inverted position.

Claim 46. (Previously presented) The salad container of claim 45, wherein the lid is further constructed to stably support the inverted container on a surface.

Claim 47. (Previously presented) The salad container of claim 31, wherein the lid is constructed such that it can serve as the bottom of the container body when the salad container is flipped over into an inverted position and shaken.

Claim 48. (Previously presented) The salad container of claim 47, wherein the lid is further constructed to stably support the inverted container on a surface.

Claim 49. (Previously presented) The salad container of claim 27, wherein the lid is constructed such that it can serve as the bottom of the container by when the salad container is flipped over into an inverted position.

Claim 50. (Previously presented) The salad container of claim 49, wherein the lid is further constructed to stably support the inverted container on a surface.

Claim 51. (Previously presented) The salad container of claim 24, wherein the selective barrier is positively engaged by the container body such that it remains substantially in place.

Claim 52. (Previously presented) The salad container of claim 51, wherein the lid is constructed such that it can serve as the bottom of the container body when the salad container is flipped over into an inverted position and shaken.

Claim 53. (Previously presented) The salad container of claim 52, wherein the lid is further constructed to stably support the inverted container on a surface.

Claim 54. (New) The salad container of claim 24, wherein said at least one protrusion is formed as an annular barrier retainer.

Claim 55. (New) The salad container of claim 24, said annular barrier retainer is partially annular.

Claim 56. (New) The salad container of claim 24, wherein the removable lid is securable.

Claim 57. (New) The salad container of claim 24, wherein the lid has a leak-resistant seal.

Claim 58. (New) The salad container of claim 38, wherein the lid has a leak-resistant seal.

Claim 59. (New) The salad container of claim 24, wherein the selective barrier is snapped into the at least one protrusion.

Claim 60. (New) The salad container of claim 38, wherein the selective barrier means is snapped into the at least one protrusion.